

Early poll returns show Ozal setback

ANKARA (AP) — Turks voted Sunday in elections expected to end the reign of the conservative Motherland Party and possibly undermine President Turgut Ozal, Turkey's dominant politician since the end of military rule in 1983. Although the president was not up for reelection, leading politicians have vowed to oust Mr. Ozal or limit him to the largely ceremonial role traditionally held by the president. The 30 million voters were choosing candidates for five-year terms in the 450-seat single-chamber parliament. Voting is compulsory. The first unofficial results indicated the Motherland Party, founded by Mr. Ozal and led by Mesut Yilmaz, would lose the parliamentary majority it has held since the military handed over power to civilians eight years ago. With nearly 134,000 ballot counted, the top vote-getter was the centre-right True Path Party, with 26.65 per cent, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. The party is led by Suleyman Demirel, a veteran politician twice ousted by the military. Next came the centre-left Social Democratic Populist Party led by physics professor Erdal Inonu, with 25.51 per cent. Both parties share Motherland's pro-Western stance and commitment to liberal free-market economic policies. Motherland had 24.56 per cent.



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King, Arafat study Arab coordination ahead of peace talks

By a Jordan Times Staff
Reporter with agency
dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday held talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on moves ahead of the Middle East peace conference to be held in Madrid on Oct. 30 and issues related to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which will attend the conference.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Taher Masri, Royal Court Chief Sheriff Zeid Ben Shaker, King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and the King's Military Secretary Prince Talal Ben Mohammad. On the Palestinian side included Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee members Farouq Qaddumi, Sulaiman Najaib, Yasser Abed Rabbo and Yasser Amri and Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdil Rahim.

Earlier Sunday, Mr. Masri met with Mr. Arafat and discussed with him Jordanian-Palestinian coordination prior to the peace conference, and coordination with other Arab parties directly involved in the peace conference, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The meeting was attended by

signing of the agreement. But it was not clear when the signing will take place.

A joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee, headed by King Hussein and Mr. Arafat, is dealing with issues related to the joint delegation, said Prime Minister Masri, who received the PLO chairman upon arrival.

"We really hope that there will be a united Arab stand regarding the conference and the issues it will discuss," Mr. Masri said in reference to prospects for a mini-summit of Arab leaders on the peace conference.

"We are in full coordination with the PLO," Mr. Masri said. "Whatever happens with one of the sides, the other is notified about."

Mr. Arafat, who will travel to Cairo Monday, is reportedly seeking a commitment from all Arab parties attending the peace conference that no bilateral agreement with Israel will be signed without the Palestinians reaching an agreement with the Jewish state.

The Associated Press quoted Abdul Rahim Mallouh, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, as saying that "the PLO is trying to secure an Arab commitment that no Arab state will normalize relations with Israel."

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His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at the Royal Palace (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Palestinian negotiator expects settlement freeze

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (R)

— The top Palestinian negotiator to the Middle East peace conference said Sunday he expected Israel to freeze Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip soon after talks begin in Madrid Oct. 30.

Dr. Haider Abdul Shafii, 72, was chosen Saturday to head the Palestinian delegation to the conference.

Freezing of settlements, Dr. Abdul Shafii told Reuters, "would be very helpful. We are not making it a condition, but we expect Israel to freeze settlements at a very early stage after the start of negotiations."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline government, which voted overwhelmingly Sunday to enter the historic talks, has in recent months accelerated Jewish settlement of the occupied territories.

In his arrival comments, Mr. Pankin said his talks would mainly focus on the push for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict through the Madrid conference, which will be co-sponsored by the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

King, Pankin review Soviet role in Arab-Israeli parley

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin Sunday discussed preparations for the Middle East peace conference to be held in Madrid, Spain, on Oct. 30 and Moscow's efforts to help ensure the success of the conference.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, did not give details. Mr. Pankin said in an arrival statement that his country would exert all efforts to make the conference a success.

Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, who received Mr. Pankin upon arrival from Syria, expressed Jordan's hope that the Soviet Union would continue to support the Arab position at the Madrid conference.

"We look forward to seeing Soviet support continue now that we are on the doorstep of the peace talks," Dr. Abu Jaber told reporters. He also expressed hope that Mr. Pankin's visit to Jordan would help advance Soviet-Jordanian relations.

The King's talks with Mr. Pankin, who is on his first visit to the region, did not give details. "We hope that the forthcoming Arab-Israeli peace talks will give a momentum for peace and would achieve the desired objectives," he added.

"The peace conference is designed to help the parties involved to reach permanent peace," he said. "The Soviet Union feels that it is its duty to work towards ensuring the success for all efforts in this direction."

Mikhail Gorbachev will attend the Madrid meeting along with U.S. President George Bush, said his country attached great importance to the conference as a "historic turning point" in the Middle East, offering a real chance for peace and stability for all peoples in the region.

"An opportunity for peace in the region has come," Mr. Pankin said. "We hope that the forthcoming Arab-Israeli peace talks will give a momentum for peace and would achieve the desired objectives," he added.

"Jordan, he added, occupies a pivotal role in the peace process and his visit to Amman also offered him a chance to seek means to further bilateral ties."

Mr. Pankin, who along with his American counterpart James Baker, announced the Madrid peace conference during a visit to

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli cabinet votes to attend Madrid conference

Jordan welcomes Israel's decision

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet voted Sunday in favour of Israel attending the Middle East peace conference to be sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union in Madrid.

The vote was 16 in favour and three against, said Transport Minister Moshe Katzav, who briefed reporters after the 7½-hour cabinet meeting.

It was the last step needed for Israel to attend the conference, which was announced Friday in occupied Jerusalem by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin.

The favourable vote came despite fears by some in the government — the most right-wing in Israel's history — that the conference would force Israel to withdraw from occupied territories.

Health Minister Ehud Olmert, a close ally of Mr. Shamir, said

the conference will provide "a chance for peace," he added. "This is the meaning of a vote against."

Housing Minister Ariel Shariv, the most outspoken opponent of the conference in Mr. Shamir's Likud Bloc, said the cabinet was not holding firmly to Israel's refusal to cede occupied land to the Arabs.

"We capitulated. We did not stick to any of our demands," he said. "Not a thing remains of

(Continued on page 5)

Three Israeli soldiers killed in Hizbullah blast

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Resistance fighters killed three Israeli soldiers with a South Lebanon bomb ambush Sunday.

Security sources said a bomb planted in the road exploded as an Israeli patrol passed on a hill about two kilometres east of the town of Nabatiyeh, setting armoured vehicles ablaze.

Three Israeli soldiers were killed — the heaviest toll since an Israeli-guerrilla clash on July 17. Security sources said five Israelis were wounded. The Israeli army reported three dead and two wounded.

The Islamic resistance, a coalition by pro-Iranian Hizbullah (Party of God), claimed responsibility.

A Hizbullah statement said Sunday's attack was made to oppose a U.S. push to dominate the Middle East through the peace conference and showed guerrillas would fight on for Palestine.

The honourable struggle continues the holy war against the Zionist invaders and are trying with their strong hands and steel will to stand in the face of the plans of international imperialism and its conspiracies," the Hizbullah statement said.

"These struggles are also pro-

ving that the threads of this conspiracy are thinner than a spider's web, that the resistance is able with the help of God to continue this path of struggle," it added.

The Hizbullah statement said two vehicles were destroyed and all inside were killed. It estimated the Israeli dead and wounded at 15.

The ambush took place on the edge of the anti-resistance buffer strip which Israel and its local allies control across South Lebanon. Israeli troops and helicopters combed surrounding hills for hours after the blast.

The bomb exploded when two Israeli armoured personnel carriers were passing through the area as part of "routine operational activity," the Israeli army said.

Three soldiers were killed in the blast and two others wounded. One suffered serious injuries and another was slightly wounded, it said. The names of the victims were not released.

The soldiers belonged to the Golani Brigade, Israel Radio said.

The army statement said Israel's Chief of Staff Ehud Barak and the head of the army's northern command, Yitzhak Mordechai, arrived in the area and questioned soldiers and officers.

(Continued on page 5)

Hostage, detainees to be freed

BEIRUT (AP) — An American hostage is expected to be released within 24 hours, the United Nations information office here announced in a statement Sunday.

A group of Arab prisoners jailed in the Israeli-controlled border zone in South Lebanon will also be freed, said the statement released at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT).

The statement came hours after Israel suggested that definitive proof that serviceman Josef Fink, missing in Lebanon since 1986, was dead, had broken a month-long deadlock in freeing prisoners and hostages.

Uri Lubin, Israel's chief hostage negotiator, said his government was "not ready to move without this information reaching us."

Ori Stolim, an Israeli attorney involved in the contacts, hinted Israel may now free more Arab detainees, a key demand by kidnappers holding the nine Western hostages in Lebanon.

Security sources in the south, requesting anonymity, said a batch of Arab prisoners was expected to be released from Khan

(Continued on page 5)

ARAB BANK

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Algeria accepts conference invitation

ALGERIA (R) — Algeria has accepted an invitation to take part as an observer in the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, the official news agency APS reported Sunday. The agency said Algeria, the third North African country to declare it would attend the conference, decided to take part after intense contacts with Palestinians, Arab and European countries and the United States. It said invitations to attend the conference as observers had been sent to all members of the Arab Maghreb Union — Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. Libya and Tunisia have already announced they will attend. Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, who opposes the conference, on Saturday challenged Arab states to hold a referendum on whether they should take part in the conference. APS said Algeria was appealing to all the Arab parties to coordinate their positions ahead of the Oct. 30 conference.

Israel's nuclear arsenal far larger than suspected

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Israel possesses a nuclear weapons arsenal far larger than the United States has suspected and has gone on full nuclear alert three times in the past, according to a new book.

"The Samson Option," by investigative reporter Seymour Hersh, was to be published Sunday. The New York Times reported on the book Sunday.

Mr. Hersh writes that Israel now possesses 300 or more nuclear warheads mounted on artillery shells, in land mines in the occupied Golan Heights and on missiles. Israel also has hundreds of low-yield neutron warheads — weapons designed to kill people but leave property undamaged, he says.

U.N. intelligence estimates Israel has fewer than 100 weapons, the Times reported.

"America's policy towards the Israeli arsenal was not just one of benign neglect; it was a conscious policy of ignoring reality," Mr. Hersh wrote.

Mr. Hersh also says the Israelis have gone on full nuclear alert — meaning nuclear missiles were wheeled out of silos and put on launchers — three times: twice during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and once this year when Israel was under attack by Iraq.

Israel has never acknowledged that it possesses nuclear weapons, although the United States and other countries have long maintained it does.

Other authors have written about Israel's nuclear programme, but the Times said many of Mr. Hersh's specific allegations are new. The newspaper said it interviewed officials and experts in the

United States who corroborated Mr. Hersh's allegations.

Among them:

- The Israelis built a false control room and other fake sites to trick American inspectors into believing they were being used solely as a research facility.

Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard passed information to Israel for four years, not the 18 months that prosecutors alleged at his trial. He also passed on far more secret data than prosecutors alleged. Mr. Pollard was convicted of spying for Israel in 1987.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir gave Moscow sanitised versions of American intelligence documents that had been given to Israel by Mr. Pollard. The documents were turned over directly to Yevgeny Primakov, the Soviet foreign ministry specialist on Middle Eastern affairs.

Most of the account of the nuclear programme's early history is supported by declassified U.S. documents. Mr. Hersh's account of more recent events relies more heavily on officials he did not identify.

Mr. Hersh was a reporter for the Times from 1972 to 1979. He is now a contract employee in The Times' Washington bureau.

Mr. Hersh, quoting Israeli and U.S. officials who discussed the matter with him, says Israel's central strategic doctrine during the 1970s and much of the 1980s was that the Soviet Union should know that it was under the threat of Israeli nuclear attack.

Mr. Hersh wrote that Israel used U.S. satellite reconnaissance photographs and other intelligence data to target Soviet cities, the newspaper said. Some

of the material was obtained openly and some of it illegally, the newspaper said.

He said Israel has tactical and strategic weapons, including more than 100 nuclear artillery shells and nuclear landmines in the Golan Heights, and hundreds of low-yield neutron warheads capable of destroying large numbers of enemy troops.

The Israeli government's general response to the reports in Mr. Hersh's book was to restate the formulation it always offers when asked about its nuclear programme.

"Israel is not going to be the first to introduce nuclear arms in the Middle East," the newspaper quoted Israeli defence ministry spokesman Danny Naveh as saying.

The New York Times reported that Mr. Hersh also made these assertions in the book:

- Successive U.S. presidents, with the exception of John F. Kennedy, did little to restrain the Israeli programme, afraid of adverse electoral repercussions.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the French government sent hundreds of scientists and engineers to help the Israelis build their underground nuclear complex at Dimona. While it was generally known the French provided assistance, Mr. Hersh wrote that the level of their assistance was far greater than U.S. analysts had previously thought.

The strategic doctrine behind the targeting was that Soviet intelligence agents would learn of the nuclear threat and that as a result Soviet leaders would limit their military aid to Arab allies in the time of war.

Senior GCC official to attend Madrid talks

BAHRAIN (R) — Abdullah Bishara, secretary general of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), said Sunday he would attend the Middle East peace conference in Madrid this month as an observer.

"An invitation has been extended to me to represent the GCC as an observer ... I will be there on Oct. 28," Mr. Bishara told Reuters by telephone from GCC headquarters in Riyadh.

"My role is a historic opportunity and by being there we will send a strong signal that the GCC is willing to do its best to push the peace process forward," he said.

The members of the economic and defence alliance are Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Bishara said he was unable to comment further on the GCC role in the talks, which are expected to have three phases — an opening session, bilateral talks between Israel and key Arab delegations, then broader discussions with other Arab states.

But Gulf-based diplomats said Saudi Arabia, the dominant member of the alliance, had indicated it was willing to participate in multilateral talks with Israel on arms control and water rights.

Those talks are part of stage three of the conference and are scheduled to begin on Nov. 13, the diplomats said.

The kingdom ended a freeze on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) assets after the Palestine National Council voted in Algiers last month to back U.S. efforts to convene a conference, the diplomats said.

The GCC would not participate in bilateral talks between Israel and frontline Arab states due to begin four days after the opening session, they said.

"Details have not been worked out but it is conceivable the GCC will send Mr. Bishara to the multilateral talks as well as some states attending individually — Saudi Arabia is the only GCC state which has confirmed it is coming," one diplomat said.

Diplomats in the region say Saudi Arabia has played a major behind-the-scenes role in bringing other Arab states to the conference and would continue to do so.

Asked if he was content with the U.N. role, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said only, "I have been asked to send a special representative as an observer and he will contribute if necessary to the success of the conference."

He said he would send Edouard Brunner, Switzerland's ambassador to the United States, as his representative to the meeting at which the United Nations is relegated to observer status, a situation he criticised earlier.

Asked if he was content with the U.N. role, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said only, "I have been asked to send a special representative as an observer and he will contribute if necessary to the success of the conference."

The kingdom ended a freeze on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) assets after the Palestine National Council voted in Algiers last month to back U.S. efforts to convene a conference, the diplomats said.

The assets, mainly taxes on the salaries of Palestinians working in the kingdom, were frozen last year in retaliation for Palestinian support for Iraq in the Gulf crisis.

Yasser Arafat's photograph appeared in Saudi newspapers on Sunday for the first time since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Diplomats said individual GCC states had also been invited to attend the opening session of the conference on Oct. 30 but it was likely they would come.

Bahrain was the only member to announce it had received an invitation Saturday.



Abdullah Bishara

Brunner to head U.N. team to peace conference

UNITED NATIONS (R) — In its first comments on the Middle East peace conference slated for Madrid, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar named a small team to attend the meeting despite dissatisfaction with the U.N.'s observer status.

He also complimented U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for bringing the conference scheduled for Oct. 30 to fruition.

"I am very happy that the conference is taking place and I am in admiration of what Mr. Baker has done over the months," he said. "I think it is a remarkable success."

He said the world would send Edouard Brunner, Switzerland's ambassador to the United States, as his representative to the meeting at which the United Nations is relegated to observer status, a situation he criticised earlier.

Asked if he was content with the U.N. role, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said only, "I have been asked to send a special representative as an observer and he will contribute if necessary to the success of the conference."

He said Mr. Brunner, appointed last March as his envoy for the Middle East, would take a small team "in order to be present during the inauguration of the conference."

The U.N. chief said on Sept. 20 U.N. observer status at a Middle East conference was "insufficient and unfair."

He said that the United Nations should not be going to the



Edouard Brunner

conference on the same footing as the European Community because "one is a regional organisation and the other one is an international organisation, the global, the world organisation."

Israel, which says it distrusts the United Nations, objects to a large U.N. role as being loaded against it.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar believes that any resolution of the conflict must be on the basis of Security Council's landmark Resolution 242, which called for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war and acknowledgement of the right of every state in the area to live in peace within secure boundaries.

He said Iraq had \$4 billion of assets overseas but these had been frozen as part of the United Nations embargo imposed as punishment for its invasion of Kuwait. "We don't have money to import food," he said.

The terms of the sanctions allowed Iraq to import certain foods — wheat, rice, sugar, tea and cooking oil — but these were a fraction of its requirements and excluded spare parts and farming inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides and animal vaccines.

"It's ridiculous not to be allowed to import machinery and spare parts," Mr. Sabagh said.

He said private traders with access to hard currency and smugglers were bringing in about 1,000 tonnes a month for sale on the free market, where prices have doubled and tripled in recent months.

In a normal year, Iraq exports about 7.5 million tonnes of wheat, barley, maize, soya, protein and other cereals.

Iraq was about 30 per cent self-sufficient in such cereals and was working towards total self-sufficiency in five years before the Gulf crisis triggered by its invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

Mr. Sabagh dismissed U.N. Resolution 706, which would allow the Baghdad authorities to sell crude oil worth \$1.6 billion to pay war reparations and buy essential imports under strict U.N. supervision.

"They (U.N. monitors) will decide its (imports) distribution. They want to bring people in to watch. They even interfere with how we breathe," he said.

The Iraqi government has shown no sign of accepting the terms, and President Saddam Hussein has said the country can live under sanctions for 20 years without asking anything from anyone."

Mr. Sabagh said Iraq's agriculture had been wrecked by Gulf war bombing which he said hit roads, bridges, dams, pumping stations and water regulation plants in land reclamation projects as well as livestock.

He told La Cinq there was a "plot" to maintain international silence about Lebanon's plight but he would strive for the recovery of Lebanon's sovereignty and liberty."

Iraq says harvest to satisfy fraction of basic food needs

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, hard hit by U.N. sanctions and Gulf war bombing that devastated its agriculture, said Sunday that next year's harvest would satisfy only 10 per cent of its basic food needs.

Agriculture Minister Abdul Wahab Mahmoud Al Sabagh said, the March/April harvest would be about 30 per cent of normal or about a tenth of what Iraq needed in staples in an average year.

Sanctions "even interfere with the way we breathe. It is really very unfair," he told Reuters in an interview.

"Not more than two per cent to our food needs is being bought, and that is by traders or by smuggling."

The minister foresees food shortages and hardship for the nation of 18 million people.

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Iraqi Kurds and Turks hold secret meeting



Massoud Barzani

DOHKU (R) — Massoud Barzani, one of two key Iraqi Kurdish leaders, held secret talks in northern Iraq Saturday with top emissary of Turkish President Turgut Ozal and a U.S. State Department official, Kurdish sources said.

They said the talks took place in the town of Zawia while a crowd of 60,000 Kurds waited in nearby Dohuk to be addressed by Mr. Barzani, on the road to lobby support for a peace and autonomy deal he has negotiated with the government.

While the meeting was taking place, eight Turkish soldiers held captive by rebel Kurdish Turks were turned over to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Zakho, 40 kilometres north of Dohuk.

Turkey said seven of its soldiers captured on Aug. 5 had been freed by the rebels Saturday. General elections were taking place in Turkey Sunday and the release of the soldiers was clearly timed to have maximum impact.

Details of the Barzani-Turkish talks were not revealed but Iraqi Kurds have protested to Turkey over cross-border raids by Turkish troops against bases of the autonomy-seeking Kurdish Workers Party (PKK).

Iraqi Kurds say civilians were wounded in the Turkish raids, Turkey denies it.

Mr. Barzani, chief of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), one of two major Iraqi guerrilla factions in Kurdistan, was making his first visit to Dohuk since a post-Gulf war rebellion against the government collapsed at the end of March.

He was greeted by an enthusiastic crowd that jammed the city's streets when he arrived late on Saturday morning.

After entering the headquar-

Pollution experts to meet in Dubai

DUBAI (R) — Pollution experts from Gulf Arab countries will gather in Dubai this week for a major environment conference to discuss the air and sea pollution caused by the Gulf war which ended in February.

The two-day conference, which starts Tuesday, has been organised by the Gulf Area Oil Companies Mutual Aid Organisation (GOACMAO), set up in the 1970s to exchange information and cooperate on pollution problems.

The participants will discuss the pollution situation in the Gulf and ways to fight oil fires and protect desalination plants from oil pollution.

"We have a strong line-up of speakers," Richard Atkinson of Dubai Petroleum Company, current chairman of GOACMAO, said Sunday.

The executive committee of GOACMAO, which brings together 10 major oil companies on the Arab side of the Gulf, will hold its routine quarterly meeting in Dubai Monday, he added.

Iraq, accused of devastating marine life and damaging hundreds of kilometres of the Gulf coast, faces expulsion from the group — but only because it has not paid its membership fees.

Mr. Atkinson said Iraq had until Nov. 17 to pay its dues or face automatic expulsion from the group. There has been no contact with Iraq since it invaded Kuwait, another GOACMAO member, in August 1990.

Iraq, which has the longest shoreline on the Gulf coast, is not a member of GOACMAO.

Negotiations with Baghdad have been brought to a standstill because of the differences between the two men, key members of the Kurdistan Front umbrella alliance.

He said deals could be worked out with the splinter group on the

U.N. official says Sudan food deal partly blocked

NAIROBI (R) — A senior U.N. official said Saturday that the Sudanese government and rebels were moving towards agreement on a series of land routes to give safe passage for food aid in the southern war zone.

But U.N. Under-Secretary James Jonah said a full deal on the relief routes was blocked by a splinter group within the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) which objected to the agreement because it was not given a say in it.

Improving seed technology discussed as way to increase agricultural output

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 30 delegates from 13 Arab and foreign countries gathered in Amman Sunday for a regional training seminar entitled "Seed Technology Course" which opened at the University of Jordan.

University President Pawzi Gharibeh who opened the session underlined the importance of the topics to be discussed and said that the seminar aims to improve food production in the participating countries. Making available amounts of seeds, providing skillful expertise and providing other facilities are important elements for successful agricultural production, Dr. Gharibeh said.

To train seed technologists, a seed technology unit has been set up within the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan, something which reflects the university's eagerness to offer services that benefit the community, said Dr. Gharibeh. University officials said the unit not only aims to train Jordanians but also seed technologists from the west



Seminar participants at the University of Jordan discuss seed technology. Participants from 13 countries are reviewing methods of increasing food production (Petra photo)

Asia and North Africa region.

The seminar is sponsored by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

The participants will have theoretical as well as practical training at the laboratories of the seed technology unit and will make field trips to a number of agricultural projects in Jordan.

Countries taking part in the seminar include Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Pakistan, Turkey, Tunisia, Qatar, Uganda and Yemen as well as Jordan.

Queen Noor returns from promotional trip to Italy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor returned home Sunday following a two-day working visit to Italy during which she inaugurated a campaign organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to promote Italian tourism to Jordan.

During Queen Noor's visit, Italian television aired a one-hour prime time special programme on tourism in Jordan, including an interview with Queen Noor.

In the interview, the Queen highlighted Jordan's touristic and archeological attractions and promoted Jordan as a peaceful and stable country. Queen Noor also paid tribute to the longstanding relations between Jordan and Italy and expressed hope for continued cooperation in the fields of tourism.

The Tourism Ministry's current campaign to attract tourists to Jordan comes as a result of the sharp decline in tourism following the Gulf crisis. In Italy, the Ministry of Tourism is holding three workshops for Italian tour operators and a number of Jordanian handicrafts and mosaic exhibits.

In April 1991, Queen Noor opened the Madaba Mosaic Exhibition at Bergamo, Italy.

Ministry of Tourism reports indicate that 3,000 to 4,000 Italian tourists are expected to visit Jordan in October and November 1991.

Queen Noor was accompanied on her visit by Tourism and Antiquities Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabir and Leila Sharaf, a Parliament member.



Abdul Karim Al Dughami

their salaries to their families in the Kingdom, according to a government official quoted by Al Rai Arabic daily Sunday. He said that the team will recruit a number of instructors to train Libyans at vocational centres in Libya.

The Jordanian labour market has recently witnessed an upsurge in unemployment among young men and women with university degrees in addition to tens of thousands of workers returning from the Gulf states, said the minister.

Referring to government measures to help solve the unemployment problem, the minister said that his ministry was trying to find work for the skilled workers abroad and has established the Development and Employment Fund to finance small-sized projects for heads of families. The ministry is also offering training in various trades to Jordanian graduates of schools and universities, offering them the chance to obtain work and earn a living.

The graduation ceremony was held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, who later distributed the diplomas to the 230 graduates. The trainees had undertaken courses in industrial tailoring, dress making, auto mechanics repair, carpet weaving, tricot and hair dressing and flower arrangement skills.

The Princess distributed awards to those excelling in their studies.

Princess Basma received a gift from the graduates and a shield from Zarqa Chamber of Commerce President Ibrahim Takieddin.

Among those attending the ceremony was the governor of Zarqa and several Parliament members.

Officials conclude agreement with Libya to employ 2,000 Jordanian workers

ZARQA (J.T.) — Jordan has concluded an agreement with Libya under which the latter would employ 2,000 Jordanians, 1,300 of whom are engineers and the rest are teachers and vocational training instructors, according to an announcement by Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughami.

During Queen Noor's visit, Italian television aired a one-hour prime time special programme on tourism in Jordan, including an interview with Queen Noor.

In the interview, the Queen highlighted Jordan's touristic and archeological attractions and promoted Jordan as a peaceful and stable country. Queen Noor also paid tribute to the longstanding relations between Jordan and Italy and expressed hope for continued cooperation in the fields of tourism.

The Tourism Ministry's current campaign to attract tourists to Jordan comes as a result of the sharp decline in tourism following the Gulf crisis. In Italy, the Ministry of Tourism is holding three workshops for Italian tour operators and a number of Jordanian handicrafts and mosaic exhibits.

In April 1991, Queen Noor opened the Madaba Mosaic Exhibition at Bergamo, Italy.

Ministry of Tourism reports indicate that 3,000 to 4,000 Italian tourists are expected to visit Jordan in October and November 1991.

Queen Noor was accompanied on her visit by Tourism and Antiquities Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabir and Leila Sharaf, a Parliament member.

Arab Potash Company begins search for contractor

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab Potash Company (APC), moving a step closer to expanding production, has begun the search for a qualified contractor to build a new plant.

The APC is implementing an ambitious expansion project which calls for the construction of a new Potash processing facility on a site adjoining the existing refinery near Safi, about 200 kilometres north of the port of Aqaba.

"Construction of the new plant is expected to begin by August 1992 and should be completed by January 1994," Mr. Gammoh said.

This past week, the company bought advertisements in local papers inviting interested companies to apply for a prequalification booklet that describes the requirements expected of a contractor.

The APC expects to receive about 50 to 60 applications from interested contractors, said Issa Gammoh, the APC's project manager. By the time tender requirements are sent out in March, the APC expects to have narrowed the field to about 10 qualified contractors, Mr. Gammoh said.

The process is designed to guarantee that the company awards the project to a contractor that has the experience, financing and other necessary qualifications to carry out the project. He said.

In addition to the search for a qualified contractor, the company is also procuring long lead items needed for the pro-

ject. These are materials which have a longer than normal delivery time.

The long lead items are already being bought "so when we have the main contractor, it will be easy for him to erect (the plant)," Mr. Gammoh said.

Currently, the APC has a production capacity of 1.4 million tonnes of potash per year. The new plant, when completed, will raise that total to 1.8 million tonnes per year, he said.

"The market is good now and the Arab Potash Company is in good shape," Mr. Gammoh said. "We have reached a steady stage so it is time to expand."

The APC, which was established in 1956, has its plants at a site near the southern tip of the Dead Sea which provides the raw materials for its products. The company is owned by Jordan — which owns 54 per cent of its capital — along with Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Bank.

Detainees to be freed

(Continued from page 1)

prison within the next two days. But they ruled out the possibility of any release Sunday.

An estimated 300 prisoners are held at the Khamis detention camp inside the zone Israel controls in South Lebanon.

Leading Shiite Muslim clergyman have said repeatedly that the hostage problem is totally separate from the Middle East peace process. That gained momentum this week with the announcement of an Oct. 30 conference in Madrid, Spain.

The U.N. statement did not say which of the five American captives in Lebanon would be freed or where. He would be the fourth Western captive to be released since August this year, fruits of an intensive U.N. effort to end the problem.

The others were Britton John McCarthy, a journalist, and Jack Mann, a former World War II pilot as well as American writer Edward Austin Tracy.

Lebanese state television, notoriously inaccurate at most of the local media on hostage stories, quoted unidentified sources as saying it would be either Joseph Cicippio or Jesse Turner.

The group holding him and fellow journalism professor Alan Steen invited Mr. Turner's Lebanese wife to come to Beirut with her daughter Joanne, to visit him for an hour under U.N. auspices.

That fuelled speculation he would be released.

Israel has said it will free Arab prisoners and make other concessions in return for definitive evidence of the whereabouts and welfare of its missing soldiers. Three Israeli servicemen are still missing in Lebanon, with a fourth, airman Ron Arad, listed as a prisoner of war.

Eight people killed in road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Eight people were killed and 183 others injured in 407 traffic accidents which took place in the Kingdom in the period between Oct. 5 till Oct. 12, 1991, according to Traffic Department sources.

The sources said Amman Governorate had the most accidents with a total of 209 accidents, followed by Zarqa Governorate with 17 accidents, then Irbid 16, Mafrag 11, Aqaba 8, Madaba 6, Balqa 5 and Karak with one accident.

Housing Corporation to build 275 new units near Marka

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Corporation Sunday awarded a local construction firm a contract to set up 275 housing units to be built at Marka in eastern Amman and said that work on the project was expected to begin early next month.

Corporation Director Yousif Hiyaat said that the housing project, expected to be completed in three years, would cost JD 3.1 million.

The housing units will be cre-

Professor traces evolution of architecture in Jordan

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Dr. Taleb Rifai, director of the Centre for Consultations and Studies and professor of architecture at the University of Jordan, said that architecture and building styles in Jordan can be used to document historic events.

In a presentation at the Centre for Studies and Research on Contemporary Middle East (CER-MOC) Thursday, Dr. Rifai showed a full-house of 50 people slides of Jordan in 1875 "before there was a single house built in Amman," and covering a period stretching to the present.

One example cited was the facade of the Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman which shows how people of different eras built and altered the architecture that was already there. "The facade was once part of a Roman temple, then part of a Byzantine basilica. After that it became part of an Umayyad mosque. Today, it is the facade of the Hussein Mosque," Dr. Rifai said.

The presentation, which lasted for one hour, included slides showing the influence of the classical Ottoman era with their precise use of stone in building and decorating. It also indicated the building techniques that led to the expansion of Jordan westwards.

"By making use of stairways, houses were able to pour over the entire terrain of Jordan. There are stairs that can take one from Jabal Al Ashrafieh to downtown Amman in five minutes. Stairs also meant that buildings could follow curved and awkward patterns," Dr. Rifai said, emphasizing his views that a city can be dealt with as a living organism that has "life, energy and movement. It reacts to events and

changes accordingly," he said. "Eventually," Dr. Rifai said, "buildings started to reflect the prestige of their occupants so that buildings with cornices and refined corners were owned by the elite."

According to Dr. Rifai, there came a time in architecture in Jordan when the "villa of Amman" was introduced. "Between 1925 and 1945, the prevalent type of buildings owned by the affluent were the symmetrical, classical types with the three bay structure and the ornate design on these bays," he said.

Dr. Rifai added that in 1948 there was a tremendous and shocking growth and modernisation with the influx of refugees from the West Bank.

Building structures kept developing there after, but it was in the 1950's that there was a complete change in the architectural scene.

"There was a complete abandonment of old architectural techniques in the 1950's. Westernisation and modernity in building became popular. For example, high storey buildings featuring blue and other colour shutters. Even places of worship usually resistant to change were slightly influenced with the patterns and ornamentations," he said.

The most recent change in architecture, said Dr. Rifai, started in the 1970's when there was an unprecedented economic boom in Jordan.

"Individualism in architecture was starting. What was different said better," Dr. Rifai said.

"Different colour, form and even shape were more in demand. It was a complete change where even arches were built upside down and defying their own purpose altogether," he said.

The conference was held in September 1987 to look into the best ways and means to develop the educational process.

Dr. Dahiyat and Mr. Mayor also discussed the status of UNESCO's Regional Office for Education in the Arab States (UNEDBAS).

Mr. Mayor said the office will continue to function in Amman and will cover such areas as culture, communication and regional educational programmes.

Dr. Dahiyat is now in Paris to head UNESCO's 26th conference being held there.

Upon its opening, the conference elected Dr. Dahiyat as vice-chairman of the 26th session, thus giving Jordan the opportunity to participate actively in formulating the policy of the national conference and UNESCO policy for the next biennium.

Jordanian-Palestinian community in Chile backs King's stance on peace

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Palestinian community living in Chile has voiced its absolute support to His Majesty King Hussein's policies and his endeavour to arrive at a Middle East peace based on justice and the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights, according to Parliament member Mohammad Addouib Al Zaben.

Dr. Zaben, who led Jordan's parliamentary delegation to the 8th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference held in Chile, said that the 350-strong community there hoped that the peace process would put an end to Israel's expansionist policies

and end its occupation of Palestinian land.

Dr. Zaben, who has returned to Amman after attending the IPU meeting, said he held extensive meetings with community members in Santiago, Chile, on the sidelines of the IPU meeting, which discussed the Middle East along with a host of other world issues.

The Jordanian parliamentary delegation to the meetings distributed copies of the Jordanian White Paper to the community members who voiced their appreciation of the King's endeavours at the domestic and external fronts, said Dr. Zaben.

KEY FIGS

AMMAN (Petra) — A team from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) is currently in Amman to conduct an assessment of population projects being implemented in the country and to help prepare and implement a national strategy in the field of population activities in Jordan.

The team met members of the National Population Commission (NPC) in the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), and Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughami to discuss these matters.

The U.N. team was briefed on the recommendations and the solutions reached by the NPC at its conference here last month. For its part, the U.N. team reviewed with the commission their assessment of Jordan's population programmes.

The U.N. team voiced satisfac-

tion with Jordan's performance in reducing the mortality and fertility rates and its drive to expand population programmes.

Delegates told that the population in Jordan now stands at 3,571,000 and is expected to reach 5,670,000 by the year 2005.

Delegates to the conference referred to the influx of some 300,000 expatriates and refugees from the Gulf countries. Princess Basma told the conference that the increase has caused severe pressure on Jordan's various services, creating new socio-economic difficulties like unemployment and sharply raising the cost of living in the Kingdom.

The NPC which is chaired by the labour minister, groups the secretaries general of the ministries of planning, awqaf and Islamic affairs, education, higher education and health in addition to the directors general of the Passports Department, the Civil Status Department, the Department of Statistics, representatives of QAF, the Armed Forces and Jordanian universities.

The recommendations, which were included in the U.N. team's report, voiced appreciation of the NPC's efforts to link its activities with development schemes in Jordan. The UNFPA plans to provide support for the NPC to go ahead with plans, U.N. team sources said.

The NPC plans to conduct a

population census and intends to carry out women-related programmes in cooperation with the UNFPA. The conference last

starred with satisfaction with the assessment of Jordan's population programmes.

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Israel can't have it all

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE James Baker went into great pains last Friday to assure Israel and the Jewish community in the U.S. of America's unyielding commitment to Israel's absolute security and edge over Arabs.

Mr. Baker has had to go out of his way to reiterate Washington's commitments to the safety and security of Israel following accusations both inside the Jewish state and the U.S. that the American administration was intent in making Israel withdraw from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967. On the same day Mr. Baker spoke in Israel, Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon charged that the U.S. and the West were trying to force Israel back into its 1967 borders. He said: "It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the intention of the present American government is to shoo Israel back into the impossible 1967 borders. Forcing Israel into these borders will lead to its destruction."

A day earlier the Jerusalem Post had reported that "Shamir sides, such as Deputy Foreign Minister Shlomo Natanyahu, have begun hinting that the U.S. intentions extend beyond a peace conference. He (Natanyahu) and others have suggested that the Bush administration wants Israel to be pushed back to the 1967 borders, including East Jerusalem."

These charges by senior Israeli officials clearly point to an Israeli insistence not to give up an inch of Arab territory and especially not Jerusalem. Considering that the Arab and Palestinian first and foremost demand to establish peace with the Israelis is Israeli evacuation of "all" occupied Arab territories — including East Jerusalem — it is clear that some in the Israeli cabinet have been mobilising to sabotage the American effort at holding the peace conference.

The American administration, however, seems to be intent on not merely convening the peace conference, as some suggest, but is also determined to settle the conflict once and for all. It is also clear that the U.S., while fully committed to the safety and security of Israel, realises that real peace in the region can only be attained and maintained by the return of the occupied Arab territories and the attainment of legitimate Palestinian rights. Despite all the voices of rejection, Israel, like everybody else, is cornered this time. It has so far gotten away with most of the conditions that it has set for entering the peace conference, but it certainly cannot determine the conference's outcome in advance. Israel has always claimed it wanted to negotiate directly with its enemy. And if that is truly the case, the opportunity is here. This could be the last chance in a long time to come to rid the region of the possibility of a real and inevitable catastrophe. The moment of truth has finally arrived. Israel cannot manoeuvre with impunity anymore. It either wants peace or it does not. The coming few weeks will tell.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Sunday focused attention on the peace process noting that it would be lengthy and faced with various obstacles. The long process of negotiations in Madrid is most likely to be encountering some sort of psychological warfare directed against the Arabs by the Israeli propaganda machine providing commentary and analysis designed at poisoning the atmosphere of the negotiations, warned the paper. It said that the Jordanian society should remain united behind the negotiators, giving them support and backing in all steps aimed at regaining Arab rights. The paper said that the official information service and the media in general can also offer meaningful backing for the process of making peace by providing information that would counter the Zionist campaign and enemy designs. The paper cautioned members of the public against falling victim to enemy rumours designed to harm internal unity or weaken the position of the negotiators. It also cautioned against talking anti-government stands that can be most harmful to the national interest. Opposing the government's policies is something, but undermining the position of Jordanian negotiators at the peace conference is something else that can by no means be condoned, warned the paper. It said negotiations require perseverance and wisdom, backed by a united internal front which the Jordanian people can and should afford under the present crucial circumstances.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticised the way the official information services in Jordan have been handling matters related to public reactions to King Hussein's nationwide address in which he declared Jordan's acceptance to participate in the peace process. Fadi Al Faneek said that the Jordan News Agency, Petra, has been enlisting the views of the wrong people, who can by no means express meaningful views with regard to the peace process nor can they reflect the opinions of the various political factions in the country. The way Petra was going about this matter, the writer said, indicates that the whole campaign was some sort of a tool to win support for an unacceptable policy or to stifle opposition to the government's policies. Faneek said one has to admit that there are people who support and others who oppose the peace process and reflecting the views of the opponents — especially politicians — is important and necessary as presenting the views of the supporters of the peace process. The writer demanded that heads of parties with diverging views be consulted because they could be offering ideas about such important questions to be raised at the negotiations like the continued Jewish immigration and the billions of dollars in aid from America to settle them or the future of the Arab lands now under occupation. The writer said that the official information services should not overreact or go beyond the limits of what is reasonable and what could be expected so that the public would not be shocked should the negotiations fail to achieve fruitful results.

Weekly Political Pulse

Coordination is a prerequisite to success

AS the pace for holding the peace conference on the Middle East accelerates, the parties can be expected to be feverishly preparing themselves for negotiations. Jordan, which should concern us here most, could very well be in the midst of a concerted campaign to articulate its position and outline its objectives on the basis of a well defined issue that would be the backbone of the prospective negotiations with Tel Aviv. I presume that Amman's delegation or delegations have already been formed and their respective duties clearly spelled out. As the nature of any peace talks would be rather complex and intricate, the Jordanian side must have developed a clearer vision of what may lie ahead in anticipation of the first and subsequent rounds of give and take negotiations on the basis of international law, U.N. resolutions and pragmatism. Yet, it is only natural that the negotiations between the two sides would get bogged somewhere, somehow down the line only to be kicked forward at the appropriate time.

At the outset, the leaders of the two respective delegations from Jordan and Israel would probably indulge themselves in long discourses on their visions for the future, with each side purporting to strive to make this region of the world the region of milk and honey. They are expected to articulate their own set of issues and disputes postulated on the basis of their own respective

priorities. One would assume that the broader terms of peace between the two countries would be first addressed in order to provide the overall umbrella for the subsequent detailed parts of the comprehensive peace formula that may bind the two sides for generations to come.

On the military level, Jordan is not in short supply of able military tacticians and strategists who can be expected to excel in safeguarding the military and security implications of any peace treaty that may come to fruition at the end of the line. Our economists and financial experts can also be expected to do well having done their home work much in advance. The hardest nut to crack would be the political dimensions of any futuristic peace accord between the two parties especially if, as anticipated, the Palestinian dimension would have to be addressed even in the context of the existing limited Jordanian-Israeli relations. This is obviously so because both Israel and Jordan know only too well that the resolution of the Palestinian conflict has got to be pursued in the context of the overall Israeli-Jordanian relations in the future. This is where complete coordination and synchronisation must be attained between Amman and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a matter of highest priority. One cannot see how peace between Tel Aviv and Amman can ever be

achieved in the absence of a successful and equitable settlement of the main thorny issue in the entire Arab-Israeli conflict. What could make or break the prospects of peace between Israel and Jordan is the Palestinian case. Accordingly everything that the Jordanian-Israeli negotiating team could attain will remain in a state of limbo pending the resolution of the Palestinian question in all its dimensions and ramifications. No wonder the eyes are focused more than ever on the successful formation of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations where optimum cooperation and harmonisation would be required.

The two Arab sides share a common destiny and converging interests in view of the geopolitical considerations that bind them together and the decades-long relations both prior to the unity that was forged between them in 1950 and after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. The level of coordination achieved by the two Arab parties already suggested that both Palestinians and Jordanians are shouldering their responsibilities towards one another with sufficient degree of seriousness and far-sightedness. If such harmonisation of position could continue beyond the opening of the negotiating sessions with Israel, then the sky is the limit on what the two Arab peoples can do together to forge peace and a new foundation for permanent relations between them.

A promised land, unredeemed

By Michael Sheridan

A middle-aged Israeli soldier was guarding the entrance to the Gaza Strip. He bent warily to scan the occupants of each Arab vehicle as an evening convoy of cars brought back the itinerant workers who labour in Israel by day and sleep in the tenements of Gaza at night.

His bow furrowed. The barrel of his Galil assault rifle came up just a fraction and he waved one battered old station wagon to a halt. Seven pairs of eyes peered out in anxious expectation. A look, a shrug, another wave of the Galil. "Yallah," the soldier said. They went.

Journalists, however, have to wait for clearance to cross into Gaza. So we made desultory conversation: the soldier was a family man doing his annual reserve duty and he was weary of its useless drudgery. "Just after the war in 1967," he recalled, "one of our brightest Israeli philosophers told people 'now you think that the conquered are suffering, but it is we the conquerors who will suffer.' Nobody knew what he was talking about, of course." He laughed. "Now we know, don't we?"

Only a few months ago, the men who run the Israeli government would have dismissed his ruminations as irrelevant irony. Their ideal of Zionism appeared finally in the ascendant. It was the ruthless version of that creed elaborated by Vladimir Jabotinsky and embodied by Yitzhak Shamir, a politician who transformed himself from gunman to statesman over four decades.

Their right-wing bloc remains entrenched in office behind a fortress of religious votes in the Knesset, while a lacklustre left-wing opposition renders every impression of the British Labour Party's plight at the zenith of Thatcherism.

"The Labour Party has not vanished," wrote a left-wing col-

umnist recently. "It is just that the Israeli opposition is being run from the office of James Baker." Thus, the theory goes, the left shirks its role as domestic critic in the hopeful expectation that the American president and his secretary of state will defeat Mr. Shamir.

"Not only is this a forlorn hope. It denies Israelis the means of debate we should be having," said one disgruntled Labour activist. For indeed, one reason Mr. Shamir and the radical right enjoy such a monopoly of public discourse is that leftists have all but ceased to challenge their attitudes.

But the malaise runs deeper than that. Opinion polls chart an inexorable decline in the Labour vote after three decades of hegemony. Some voters are drifting to smaller left-wing parties, and many more to the right. The influx of Soviet Jews is already revealing itself as an electoral bonus for the Likud and its nationalist allies. And Mr. Shamir, a man of 75 whose re-creational reading consists of intelligence reports, is perhaps the most powerful Israeli prime minister since David Ben-Gurion.

He sits at the centre of an alliance that knits together moderate conservatives, extreme right-wingers and the ultra-orthodox religious. Carefully avoiding provocative statements, he leaves the ideological imperative of building of Jewish settlements to Ariel Sharon and the recent fervent anti-American rhetoric to the excitable fringe of his government.

But Mr. Shamir's command of domestic politics coincides with a shift in the relationship between Israel and its benefactor, America. Only now is it dawning on his entourage that the end of the Cold War signified a decline in Israel's importance as a strategic asset. Indeed, it stood revealed by the Gulf war as a liability to American interests in the Middle

East.

From this development all else flows: diplomatic coercion, the choking off of excess aid for Soviet Jews, unprecedented criticism in Washington of Israel's economy. This week a State Department consultant, Herbert Stein, told American Jewish fund-raisers to accept that U.S. aid to Israel would one day come to an end.

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Mr. Shamir has had no choice but to accede to the wishes of President George Bush and Mr. James Baker. Israel will attend the peace conference. But he has managed with dogged effort to rob it of authority. It will have no power, he says, and Israel will prevent it holding more than one ceremonial meeting. Everybody else thinks that it is to be based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israel to withdraw from the Arab land it occupied in 1967 in exchange for peace. Mr. Shamir said his government simply rejects the concept.

The last U.S. secretary of state to draw Israel into negotiations with more than one Arab power was Henry Kissinger, who left an acid portrait of Israeli diplomacy.

He wrote: "Israel's domestic political procedures explain its maddening negotiating method, which is to haggle over even the slightest concession, never to make an unexpected compromise and to settle only when everyone has reached a state of exhaustion that deprives the conclusion of exaltation or even goodwill." Mr. Baker, now, on his eighth pilgrimage from the antagonistic capitals of the Levant, has experienced this system to the full — and his conference has not yet even assembled for an opening session.

The internal balance of power is firmly set against "pragmatic" members of the cabinet — the foreign minister, David Levy, the justice minister, Dan Moridor, and the health minister, Ehud Olmert.

These younger Likud ministers might prove more flexible. But in any test of cabinet the two pivotal figures in the regime, Mr. Shamir himself and the defence minister Moshe Arens, will incline to the traditional Likud hard position.

So, although the radical right of the cabinet complains at length — not enough money for settle-

ments, too few Palestinians being shot for stone-throwing (an on-the-record pronouncement by one minister), imminent capitulation to the "anti-Semitic" George Bush — both they and Mr. Shamir know that this is a mutually advantageous game.

It allows the prime minister to point with dismay to his truculent extremists whenever the United States presses for concessions. It permits him simultaneously to manipulate the most dedicated drive to keep control of the occupied territories since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Ariel Sharon is the key figure in this effort. The former conqueror of Lebanon is now the minister of housing, in which capacity he has displayed an energy quite out of character with Israeli government bureaucracy. Rapid building in the West Bank, entire new roads snaking across Palestinian land to link settlements, the covert purchase of Arab homes in old Jerusalem and the provocative occupation of houses in the neighbouring village of Silwan — all bear his imprint. "Do you think that I do anything without the prime minister's approval?" Mr. Sharon told an Israeli viewer recently. "Of course I do not."

The rightist policy on the eve of Mr. Baker's "peace conference" seems confident and, apparently, impervious to "domestic challenges." Israel will keep all the internal balance of power is firmly set against "pragmatic" members of the cabinet — the foreign minister, David Levy, the justice minister, Dan Moridor, and the health minister, Ehud Olmert.

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Ariel Sharon is the key figure in this effort. The former conqueror of Lebanon is now the minister of housing, in which capacity he has displayed an energy quite out of character with Israeli government bureaucracy. Rapid building in the West Bank, entire new roads snaking across Palestinian land to link settlements, the covert purchase of Arab homes in old Jerusalem and the

By Walter

King, Arafat study coordination

(Continued from page 1)

before the Palestinian problem is properly addressed and resolved."

Mr. Abed Rabbo, another PLO executive, told Reuters that Syria would host a meeting of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt and the head of the PLO's political department ahead of the Madrid conference to decide whether a summit of their leaders would convene later.

"What is intended from this Arab meeting is to standardise our positions to reach a comprehensive position on all aspects (of the Middle East problem) and ensure there will be no separate peace solutions," Mr. Abed Rabbo was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Mr. Arafat's visit to Jordan coincided with the arrival here of two Palestinian activists from the occupied territories.

Zainab Kamal and Ghassan Al Khathib said they were here for talks on the make-up of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

Mrs. Kamal was quoted as saying that a six-member committee of Palestinians will be made up to advise the delegation. She denied that she would be one of the delegation members but said she would serve in the advisory committee.

Mr. Khatib, a professor of economic development at Bir Zeit University and Ms. Kamal, are expected to meet Jordanian officials to discuss the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference.

Mr. Khatib said that the final list of the Palestinian delegation will be publicly revealed on Monday.

"A decision was made not to release the names of the Palestini-

nian delegation until Monday," Khatib said in a telephone interview.

Several lists of Palestinian names have been leaked to the press, but none have been confirmed by the Palestinian leadership.

Mr. Khatib said that the general Palestinian mood in the occupied territories was positive about the peace conference, but stressed that the people were cautious.

"The people generally accept the form of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and their participation in the conference," said the professor.

"But their hope is very cautious because they are accustomed to failed attempts to solve the Palestinian problem in the last 24 years," he said.

The professor, known as a supporter of the Palestinian Communist Party, said the Palestinians felt that the efforts appeared more serious.

"With the beginning of negotiations, there will be more optimism among the people in the occupied territories," he predicted.

According to Mr. Abed Rabbo, Mr. Arafat and President Assad agreed that unilateral talks with Israel on water rights, regional disarmament and environmental issues are futile until the Jewish state withdraws from Arab territories.

"Regarding the multilateral phase of the talks, the Syrians and the Palestinians think there is no need to convene them before the peace conference ends its job and secures Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian Arab rights," Mr. Abed Rabbo told Reuters.

"There is also agreement that each Palestinian who will be at the negotiating table will be PLO," he added.

Arab territories should be on the conference agenda," he said.

The decision-making Palestine Central Council (PCC), which met in Tunis last week, accepted Palestinian participation in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at the peace conference after dropping a key demand for a freeze in Israeli settlement activity prior to the convening of the conference.

The extent to which Mr. Arafat managed to heal his eight-year rift with President Assad during his visit to Damascus was not immediately known. But the PLO chairman paid tribute to the Syrian president during the meeting late Saturday, according to PLO officials.

According to a Syrian presidential spokesman, Mr. Assad and Mr. Arafat "stressed the necessity of achieving coordination among the Arab parties taking part in the historic peace conference in Madrid on Oct. 30."

PLO Executive Committee member Shafiq Al Houari who attended the four-hour talks said the atmosphere at the meeting was "cordial and warm."

Mr. Arafat praised Mr. Assad's stand on Middle East peace and Mr. Houari said the talks were held in line with the wishes of the Palestinian people inside and outside occupied Palestine."

Meanwhile, the Paris representative of the PLO was quoted as saying that the PLO would be at the peace conference negotiating table "whether anyone wants it or not."

The PLO is not a political organisation. The PLO is the national identity of the Palestinian people," said Ibrahim Souissi in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo. "All Palestinian people are PLO."

"Everyone knows that each Palestinian who will be at the negotiating table will be PLO," he added.

Israeli cabinet votes 'yes' to conference

(Continued from page 1)

Israel's positions and principles."

Mr. Sharon is the head hawk opposed to the talks. He has challenged Mr. Shamir for the leadership of the Likud party and demanded his resignation.

Mr. Shamir vociferously opposes ceding occupied land but he did not want to be blamed for thwarting the U.S. effort to refashion the Middle East in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Washington used its financial leverage to prod Israel to the negotiating table by delaying \$10 billion of urgently needed loan guarantees to house Soviet Jews.

Others who voted no were Science Minister Yaval Neeman of the ultra-right Tehiyah party, and Rehavam Zeevi, a minister without portfolio whose Modelot party advocates expelling Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai of Likud was listed as abstaining. But he said he did not vote for attending only because of a technicality — he had submitted his own proposal for the conference in different language from the government plan.

Mr. Shamir had announced on Friday that he expected Israel to attend the Madrid conference and recommended acceptance from the cabinet, almost assuring a favourable vote.

Mr. Shamir's ability to push through his decision to attend was never in doubt despite clamouring from the far right of his coalition which fears Israel would face international pressure to

trade occupied Arab land for peace.

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Israeli opposition to the talks

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Most of the two million Palesti

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Palestinian sources said the

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headed by Hizbullah Abdal Shaf

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Palestinians submitted a list of

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States Saturday but said there

was still intense debate over who

should represent them.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, PLO supporters scrawled graffiti on walls urging Palestinians to

ignore a call for a general strike by the rival Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, to mark the

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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

China takes easy lead at Asian meet

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Chinese discus thrower Yn Wenge set a championship record at the Asian Track and Field Championships Sunday. Despite heavy rain, China took five gold medals to raise their tally to six in two days, well ahead of arch rivals Japan and South Korea with two golds each. Yu's winning throw of 62.20 metres surpassed the previous championship record of 61.72 but was well below his personal best of 63.32. "I could have improved my personal best if not for the rain which hampered my performance," he said. World champion Xu Demei was also an easy winner for China in the women's javelin final with a best throw of 59.84 metres. Asia's fastest man, Tala Mansur of Qatar, clocked 10.24 seconds in the men's 100 metres semifinals, 0.04 of a second better than his Asian Games record of 10.28. China's Asian Games champion Tian Yumei broke the meeting record of 11.39 with a time of 11.32 in the women's 100 metres semifinals.

Marseille suffers 2nd defeat

PARIS (R) — French league leaders Marseille, playing without Jean-Pierre Papin who was injured by a bottle thrown by a fan, suffered their second defeat of the season when they lost 1-0 at St Etienne Saturday. Papin was struck by a bottle thrown by a St Etienne fan as the Marseille players arrived at their opponent's stadium. He was taken to hospital. Medical sources said he was only slightly injured. Striker Didier Tholot delighted the 40,000 home crowd when he struck the only goal in the 42nd minute. Champions Marseille remained one point ahead of Monaco who lost 2-0 at Metz Thursday. Paris St Germain retained third spot despite a 2-0 defeat at Caen.

Buyo saves Real Madrid from defeat

MADRID (R) — Fine goalkeeping by Francisco Buyo saved leaders Real Madrid from their first Spanish League defeat of the season. He made two fine reflex saves to keep out headers from Barcelona's Michael Laudrup and Fristo Stoichkov in the closing minutes. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. Barcelona, who have not beaten Real away for seven seasons, had defender Alberto Ferres sent off six minutes from time for a second bookable offence. Robert Prosinecki gave Real the lead with a 25-metre free kick in the 19th minute. Dutch international Ronald Koeman equalised from the penalty spot in the 47th minute after Luis Milla had fouled Laudrup.

Huber wins at Filderstadt Indoor

FILDERSTADT, Germany (R) — Former World number one Martina Navratilova was beaten by unseeded Anke Huber, 19 years her junior, in the final of the \$350,000 Filderstadt Women's Indoor Tournament Sunday. The 2-6 6-2 7-6 victory was the 16-year-old Huber's biggest career win and gave her a prize of \$70,000 — \$17,000 more than she won throughout the whole of 1990. The top-seeded Navratilova, who turned 35 Friday, had been hoping for victory to bring her level with fellow American Chris Evert's all-time record of 157 tournament wins. But Huber was too strong for the nine-times Wimbledon champion who lost the third set tiebreak 7-4 to concede defeat in just under two hours. Huber, who beat fifth-seeded American Zina Garrison in the quarterfinals and number seven Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia in the last four, should now move into the world's top 20. The German teenager had won only one previous tournament, in Schenectady last year.

Lendl beats Wheaton in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia overpowered American David Wheaton 6-3, 7-5, 6-1 Sunday and won the Marlboro Tennis Championships for the second consecutive year. Lendl, ranked fifth in the world, broke Wheaton in the third and ninth games in the first set. He had a tougher battle in the second set, but won it with a service break in the 12th game. The 31-year-old Lendl dominated the third set, breaking Wheaton three times. Wheaton was eliminated from the tournament Friday after finishing second behind Japan's Shizuo Matsukata in group play. However, Matsukata became ill Saturday, giving Wheaton a chance to play in the semifinals, where he beat American Michael Chang 6-3, 7-6 (9-7). Lendl advanced into final by beating Australian Todd Woodbridge 6-2, 7-6 (7-3).

Rising star Jarnet wins at Newmarket

NEWMARKET, England (R) — Thierry Jarnet, the rising star of French horse racing, made a spectacular debut in England when partnering Tel Quel to a 1-6 victory in the group one Champion Stakes. But while everything went perfectly for Sheikh Mohammad's colt, the race proved a disaster for Cash Asmussen aboard last year's winner In The Groove. Asmussen, playing the waiting game which paid rich dividends with Suave Dancer in the Prix De L'Arc De Triomphe, this time failed to find an opening, barging across another French challenger, gilty, when making a move three furlongs (600 metres) out. In The Groove made rapid headway afterwards, but Tel Quel had already mastered second-placed Cruchan and was beyond recall, winning by half a length. After a stewards' inquiry, In The Groove was allowed to keep third place. Sheikh Mohammad, whose family sponsor the event, was capturing his first group one prize in England this year.

French filly wins in Maryland

LAUREL, Maryland (R) — Leariva, a four-year-old French-based filly and a 44-1 longshot, won the \$750,000 Budweiser International Horse Race by 1-1/4 lengths over 12 others. Silliry, another French-based horse, was second and compatriot Goofalik was third over the 1-1/4-mile turf course of the race, formerly called the Washington International. Solar Splendor, a 4-1 favourite from the United States, was 10th. Ken De Saron, a French-based filly broke her maiden Saturday in her second career start by winning the Selma Stakes Grade III race. Ken De Saron is trained by Maurice Ziller and was ridden by Eric Legris. Smiling And Dancin, a U.S.-based two-year-old colt, won the Laurel Futurity. Richard Migliore rode the winner for trainer Stephen Dimarco.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AQ ♦AK93 ♦764 ♦AQ105
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K105 ♦AJ6 ♦AS ♦AQJ93
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AQJ873 ♦85 ♦AQ109 ♦63
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦J94 ♦VK87 ♦652 ♦AQ72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦8 ♦V3 ♦Q109762 ♦KJ652
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A ♦Void ♦AK9763
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?

Berger wins Japan Grand Prix; Senna takes world drivers' title

SUZUKA, Japan (AP) — Brazilian Ayrton Senna clinched his third World Drivers' Championship in four years when he finished second behind his McLaren teammate Gerhard Berger in the Japanese Grand Prix Sunday.

Austria's Berger won the incident-filled 53-lap race in one hour 32 minutes and 10.695 seconds, finishing 0.344 seconds ahead of team-mate Senna in an amazing finish in which Senna, who was leading, pulled over at the final corner to let Berger through to win.

It was an extraordinary finish to an extraordinary race that saw Senna seal the title, and Berger win his first race for McLaren and his first since the Portuguese Grand Prix in 1989 when he was with Ferrari.

Senna's chief rival for the title, Briton Nigel Mansell, spun off with a braking problem on the 11th lap, his Williams car coming to rest in the same sandtrap on the first corner where last year's championship was settled when Senna and Frenchman Alain Prost collided.

Berger and Senna were followed home by Italian Riccardo Patrese in the second Williams

with Alain Prost of France fourth for Ferrari ahead of Martin Brundle of Britain in a Brabham and Stefano Modena of Italy in a Tyrrell.

For Brundle it was his best finish since finishing fifth for Brabham in the same race two years ago.

The result sealed Senna's third championship. He won the title last year and in 1988.

With one race to go, Senna has an unassailable 91 points in the title race to Mansell's 69.

Mansell was among the first to congratulate Senna after the champion had climbed from his McLaren and hugged team-mate Berger.

Berger, starting the race from pole position, led comfortably for the opening 17 laps before Senna went by to take the lead.

Senna briefly conceded the lead to Patrese on laps 22 and 23 when he stopped for new tyres, but went ahead on lap 24 and kept the lead until the final corner.

There Senna moved across and let Berger through to win. The pair crossed the line almost side by side, waving to each other as they drove down the straight.

On his slowing down lap, Senna was given a Brazilian national flag that he waved furiously. On the podium he and Berger sprayed champagne in celebration.

Senna said he had deliberately let Berger through to win.

"It is a very exciting win for me and a very satisfying one. But we have had to push hard, both Gerhard and me, to get the championship."

"He has done a lot of work for me and that is why, for the first time in my career, when I had the chance I let Gerhard go through to win."

Senna's win enabled him to become the youngest man to join an exclusive club of three-times world champions alongside Juan-Manuel Fangio (five titles), Jack Brabham, Jackie Stewart, Niki Lauda, Nelson Piquet and Alain Prost.

Senna added: "When I saw Mansell go off I cannot say I was sorry because I knew he was having a hell of a time in the turbulence behind me."

"After he retired, it was almost an instant reaction for me to think 'right, we've got to go for it and have some fun' only to be

reminded by the team over the radio link to think of the constructors' championship."

"After our tyre stops, I was leading and having to drive 99.9 per cent. We had agreed earlier that whoever led for the opening stages would be allowed to win."

"Giving way was a small gesture to Gerhard who had helped me a lot in the past. But I mean a small gesture because he was as fast as me today."

Said Mansell: "It was a pity for me that things finished like that. I had been putting the pressure on Ayrton, not pushing too hard, when at turn one the break pedal went soft and I just couldn't slow down enough."

"I tried to catch it, as the car ran wide, but I failed."

However, we cannot be too disappointed with the way things have gone this season. The team have done what they promised and have given me a great crack at the championship."

"The McLaren drivers used perfectly legitimate tactics. Gerhard shot off like a bullet and Ayrton kept me slow through the corners. Ayrton has all my congratulations on winning his third world title."

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1991

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1991
By Thomas S. Person, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Being ready, eager and willing to forge into new avenues of expression depend somewhat on decisions about just what it is that you really want out of life. Decide and move forward today.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get out and make contact with those who are able to help you in your regular duties and show them that you are well acquainted with proven methods.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

You are conscious of the need and the goodics that money brings to you now so concentrate upon adding to your security by having a greater abundance to spare.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

This is certainly your day to go after what you want in the way of pleasure in a big way and to thoroughly enjoy your particular hang-up.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

Get that highly placed person to show you how you can do your job better from his long ex-

perience and then pitch in and get all work done.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

You are filled with the inspiration now to gain your aspirations and you would be wise to let those close to you know and understand what you like best.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

Now you find it necessary to make your surroundings more attractive, comfortable or efficient if the future is to have that harmony and well you so enjoy.

increasing your present situation is excellent for you now so be on the look for such.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

This is your moment to show you do value some new ally who have recently met who has given you ideas that fit very well into your scheme of things.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)

You have the most positive insight how you can get along better with others by being more exact and particular in your relationship.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20)

Your interest is gaining the good will of a partner in strong but to get the best results you would be wise to listen to suggestions made by an under-

standing friend.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 18)

Good friends will go with you to studies that help you to gain the good will of those who have some highly interesting information for you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

Good friends will go with you to studies that help you to gain the good will of those who have some highly interesting information for you.

PIRATES: (February 22 to September 22)

Getting one in power to see your capabilities and to get his help

short of top class midfielders, agreed. "Rocastle was outstanding, arguably the best player on the pitch. He produced some magical moments and it was a tremendous goal. You would be extremely harsh to say that was an own goal.

"I'm really pleased for him

because he has had two bad years

through injury but has come back again," he said.

United manager Alex Ferguson, whose team bears a strong resemblance to the Arsenal of last season with their watertight defence, was relieved by the outcome of the match.

The European Cup Winners Cup boldens have now played

second-placed Leeds, Liverpool and Arsenal at home and still not lost.

Leeds, who have played one

game more than United,

increased the pressure with a 4-2

thrashing of Notts County to

move within two points of the

leaders.

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leaders.

The battle between the only

teams ever to go from last place

one season to the World Series in

the next resumes here on Sunday

with Kevin Tapani starting for the

American League pennant winners

Atlanta's 20-game winner

Tom Glavine.

The Braves, the object of a

pre-game protest led by the

American Indian Movement

against Atlanta's use of Indian

names and symbols, will return to

the friendlier confines of Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium for the

third game of the series on

Tuesday.

The Braves, the object of a

pre-game protest led by the

American Indian Movement

against Atlanta's use of Indian

names and symbols, will return to

Economy

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (October 14-October 18, 1991)

AMMAN — Notwithstanding underlying bearish sentiment towards it, the dollar traded higher early last week. The rise was attributed, on balance, to technical factors, triggered by the apparent postponement of a Fed interest rate cut, coupled with the market's weakness against the yen. The dollar nevertheless, ended the week an average of 0.14% lower against the major European currencies, but 0.25% higher against the yen, compared to the previous week's closing rates.

Despite a Columbus Day holiday in the U.S., some New York traders took the dollar higher Monday, as they covered short positions in thin trading. The U.S. unit went higher still the following day, closing at its highest levels of the week at 1.7134 marks, 1.6995 dollars for the pound sterling and at 130.13 yen to the dollar. Tuesday's rise was attributed to the fact that the Fed had not moved to cut interest rates as expected triggering further dollar short covering. Lack of agreement by the G-7 to help the USSR pay-off its external debts brought pressure on the mark in the crosses, because of the high exposure of German banks to Moscow, which in turn reflected favourably on the dollar. Additionally, the G-7's implicit endorsement of a strong euro further weakened the German currency, causing it to drop to 75.95 yen, and contributed to its decline against the dollar.

As of Wednesday, however, the dollar started a gradual decline in anticipation of a possible Fed interest rate cut Thursday, should U.S. Consumer Price, for September, scheduled to be released that day, continue to indicate a low inflation level. The mark, on the other hand, started a gradual rebound against the yen in cross trading, whilst traders covered short mark position to take profits, despite on-going speculation of a possible mark drop to 75.00 yen to the mark in the short run.

The dollar surged in early New York trading Thursday on a larger than expected 0.4% rise in September's Consumer Prices. The rally soon lost steam, however, and reversed into a decline due to comments from White House economic advisor Michael Boskin impressing on the necessity to cut interest rates if growth in money supply, namely M2, continues to be unsatisfactory. Mr. Boskin's comments rekindled expectations of a Fed interest rate cut, even though weekly M2 growth turned out better than expected, rising by \$4.5 billion, compared to expectations of a drop of \$2.1 billion. Other economic reports released during the day had an adverse influence on the dollar, as they reflected a weak U.S. economy. Industrial Output rose in September by a mere 0.1%, while August's trade gap widened further to \$6.76 billion from \$5.95 in July.

The release of a second batch of U.S. economic reports with negative results further reinforced the unfavourable dollar trend Friday. September's Housing Starts fell 2.2%, its first decline in six months, and a survey conducted by Michigan University showed consumer confidence had dropped to its lowest levels in five months. Meanwhile, the Japanese currency dropped to 76.96 yen to the mark, after Kikio Miyazawa, widely expected to be the next Japanese prime minister, was reported as saying that the Japanese economy was "... in bad shape," thus signalling a possible Bank of Japan interest rate cut. The yen's weakness against the mark, further intensified the dollar's drop to its lowest levels of the week against European currencies.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	11/10/91		18/10/91		Percent Change
	Close	Close	Close	Close	
Sterling Pound*	1.7235	1.7265	+0.17%	+0.17%	
Deutsche Mark	1.6885	1.6873	-0.07%	-0.07%	
Swiss Franc	1.4795	1.4755	-0.27%	-0.27%	
French Franc	5.7540	5.7515	-0.04%	-0.04%	
Japanese Yen	129.53	129.45	-0.25%	-0.25%	

* USD per STG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*	11/10/91		18/10/91	
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.12	5.50	5.12	5.37
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.12	10.43	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.43	9.12	9.25
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.06	8.06	8.06
French Franc	9.12	9.37	8.93	9.21
Japanese Yen	6.81	6.00	6.53	5.62

Interest bid rates for amounts received U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 20/10/91

Currency	Bid		Offer	
	U.S. Dollar	£ Sterling	Deutsche Mark	French Franc
U.S. Dollar	.685	.687		
Sterling Pound	1.1811	1.1870		
Deutsche Mark	.4053	.4073		
Swiss Franc	.4635	.4658		
French Franc	.1190	.1196		
Japanese Yen	.5268	.5294		
Dutch Guilder	.3598	.3616		
Swedish Krona	.1111	.1117		
Italian Lira*	.0542	.0545		
Belgian Franc	.01971	.01981		

* Per 100

Foreign debt market set to maintain growth

BANGKOK (R) — The market where traders buy and sell countries' foreign debt has grown rapidly over the past year and market players say this should continue in the next 12 months.

At the same time the nature of this market has changed quickly. It has been transformed from a place where only loans were bought and sold to resemble more a bond market with good liquidity and big turnover.

Traders expect turnover to jump to over \$200 billion this year from \$75 billion in 1990.

"The emergence of Brady Bonds has stimulated the market," said Gerrit Jan Tamme, vice-chairman of NMB Postbank, one of the biggest debt traders. "New players like institutional investors in the U.S. have come in."

Brady Bonds are the instruments issued in exchange for debt when countries enter a debt-reduction exercise under the Brady initiative.

This was launched in 1989 when U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady suggested a plan

to cut the commercial bank obligations of the world's debtors.

The plan was characterised by the participation of multilateral financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, in supporting debt reduction.

The operations were designed to create marketable instruments as well as an element of debt forgiveness and a reduction of interest payments.

The risks involved vary widely from country to country.

For example per bonds issued by Venezuela and Mexico under their Brady-style deals trade at around 69% and 59% per cent of face value respectively, while Nigerian loans that will soon be converted trade at 43% per cent.

Traders say the price of Nigerian paper is likely to rise once the bonds are issued but Nigeria will not catch up with the other countries because the risks are seen as much greater.

"If Brazil and Argentina sort out Brady deals in the next year, this will contribute to the growth

as a company that extends credit facilities to consumers and to industrial, commercial or agricultural enterprises.

It includes leasing, hire purchase, project financing or consultancy, and companies engaging in electronic fund transfers and the issue of credit cards and token and face prosecution.

The number of such organisations operating in Nigeria is not known but bankers say there could be more than 1,000.

"Some of them are operated by one man with a car telephone, while many of them accept cash deposits from the public without government approval and are centres for fraud," one banker

The CBN lists a finance house

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"The countries that want to assist us in overcoming this difficult transition period must understand that financial assistance cannot substitute for the removal of protectionism," he added.

But there were problems, he added. Industrial output fell 18 per cent in the first nine months of 1991 and unemployment was 5.6 per cent.

"We know that we have not yet reached the transformation bottom" and that output will continue to decline, pushing the unemployment rate higher next year," he said.

"To increase our reserves during the first post-liberalisation period is a success," he said.

Czechoslovakia liberalised prices and foreign trade on Jan. 1, introducing internal convertibility allowing companies to buy foreign exchange for imports without state intervention.

Mr. Klaus said Czechoslovakia would need further foreign funding in 1992.

"We will need some additional foreign aid next year. I would say that the tough talks will start in November, when the IMF mission comes to Prague," he said.

The Group of 24 rich industrialised nations promised \$1 billion for Czechoslovakia in 1991 although not all of this has been paid out, in addition to IMF funding of \$1.3 billion.

A preliminary estimate of

needs for 1992 prepared by the

EC and the IMF said Czechoslovakia would have a financing gap of around \$600 million.

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Sporadic fighting continues in Croatia Mercy convoy evacuates Vukovar wounded after nightmare trip

NOVI MIKANOVCI, Yugoslavia (R) — A French mercy convoy, zig-zagging through enemy lines and mortar fire for half a day, ferried more than 100 badly wounded people to safety in rebel Croatian Sunday.

Fighting continued in Croatia despite a new ceasefire call by the republic and the Serb-led Yugoslav army.

Croatian Radio said the intensity of the fighting had eased Sunday, with only sporadic gunfire in villages in northeast Croatia. Tanjug News Agency said Croatian forces shelled army positions in Nova Gradiška and Novska in central Croatia.

More than 1,000 Croats and an unknown number of Serbs have been killed since Yugoslavia's second-largest republic broke away on June 25, declaring independence from the Yugoslav state set up in 1918.

The declaration sparked an uprising by Croatia's 600,000-strong Serb minority, backed by the army and Serbia, the largest republic in the country of 23.5 million people.

Special U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance said over the weekend that a U.N.-imposed arms embargo had failed. He predicted 400,000 or more refugees by the end of the year.

The mercy convoy evacuated 169 Croats to a makeshift field hospital in the village of Novi Mikanovci after a hazardous journey in which two nurses were

badly wounded.

"The convoy reached Novi Mikanovci at one a.m. It's really good news," said Anne-Marie Huby, a spokeswoman for the Paris-based aid group Médecins Sans Frontières.

The convoy zig-zagged for 13 hours along muddy back roads to Novi Mikanovci. The tiny village is only about 40 kilometres from Vukovar, but it took an indirect route of about 80 kilometres along winding, pot-holed roads.

The nurses, Ghislaine Jacquier of Switzerland and Fabienne Schmidt of Luxembourg, had their legs broken and one suffered concussion when their truck ran over a landmine, she said.

The convoy was the first to evacuate wounded from Vukovar since the army began a siege of the town almost two months ago.

Carrying the injured, some without arms or legs, the 12-vehicle convoy under army escort was bogged down for hours in a muddy field. At one point it went through Serbian territory.

"We had to drive along paths through cornfields. We ended up having to slide the vehicles down a muddy slope. Then the army used tanks to pull us away," one driver said.

The convoy detour took it briefly across the border into Serbia and then back into Croatia.

Croatian Guards gave the injured drinks and made victory signs as they passed through vil-

lages.

The final stretch took the convoy back on bumpy, muddy tracks. It crept along at five kph (three mph), arriving in Mikanovci early Sunday.

Most of the wounded were Croatian Police or National Guards who had been defending Vukovar.

"The town has been destroyed. It isn't there any more," said Danco Topunjak, an injured policeman huddling under a blanket in the back of a truck.

"There is no food, no water, no electricity. The people are tired, but they will never give up. They will fight to the last," he said.

There were 300 more seriously wounded people in Vukovar, he said. Some 15,000 Croats are still in the once ethnically mixed town of 50,000.

The defiant stand of Vukovar, which lies across the Danube River from Serbia, has turned it into a symbol of Croatian resistance to Serbian attempts to take over large chunks of their territory.

Yugoslav Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijević and Croatian President Franjo Tuđman ordered the 10th ceasefire in Croatia in four months at noon (1100 GMT) Saturday as part of a deal worked out with the European Community Friday.

Serbia and its three allies on the eight-month collective state presidency said Mr. Tuđman had not complied with the ceasefire

fully because he made it conditional on the army lifting blockade of several towns and ports.

Local radio reports Sunday suggested fighting had eased slightly during a night of driving rain. Tanjug said Croatian forces shelled army and Serb positions in Nova Gradiška and Novska Sunday, but gave no details.

There were no new reports of deaths Sunday. Nine people were reported killed Saturday in battles that engulfed most of the main flashpoints — around the port of Dubrovnik in the south, Nova Gradiška in the centre and Vukovar.

In the most serious incidents, Yugoslav army units staged amphibious assaults Saturday on the coastal towns of Kupari and Strebno, south of Dubrovnik, and air force jets strafed the central town of Pakrac, Croatian Radio said.

The federal army and Croatian officials were due to resume peace talks Sunday.

In negotiations Saturday, Croatia said it was willing to lift a barricade of federal army bases if the army set out a plan to withdraw from the republic, Croatian Radio said.

The regional peace talks in Zagreb provided the agreement under which the Vukovar wounded were evacuated and more than 130 army vehicles were allowed to leave the Borongrad Barracks in Zagreb after being blockaded for more than a month.

Yeltsin steers cautious path through ethnic issues

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin is trying to steer a cautious path through a minefield of ethnic disturbances exploding across his far-flung domain.

Opposition to Russian rule has flared in a string of southern autonomous republics, ethnic or tribal areas which theoretically have internal self-government but where activists are now demanding more real power.

Mr. Yeltsin called Saturday for separation in the autonomous republic of Chechen-Ingush to lay down their weapons, but was met with sneers from Chechen leaders who described his appeal as the "last boltch of Russian imperialism."

A threat to Mr. Yeltsin's Russian Federation also came from armed pro-independence groups in the autonomous Republic of Tatarstan which ignored attempts by their president, Mintimer Shaymiyev, to outlaw the creation of military associations.

But Mr. Yeltsin, hoping for financial support for his battered republic from wealthy Germany, reaffirmed his backing for the creation of a Russian autonomous state for about two million ethnic Germans inside the Soviet Union.

Campaigns by the autonomous republics to have a bigger say in their own affairs were undermined by the abortive Kremlin coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in August.

Before the coup, they were to have signed a union treaty binding together 15 Soviet republics and their dependencies. The treaty was scrapped after the coup, when Mr. Yeltsin moved into the ascendant by spearheading resistance to it.

Eight of the 12 remaining Soviet republics signed a limited economic treaty Friday but lead-

ers of autonomous republics were not invited to take part in the ceremony.

"All yesterday's autonomous republics have returned to their starting point," Tatarstan's Shaymiyev told his parliament.

TASS news agency said Mr. Shaymiyev's decree outlawing the formation of armed groups in his republic had little effect.

It quoted Venet Salimov, deputy chairman of Tatarstan's KGB security police, as saying that about 3,000 people had already signed up for a people's guard demanding independence.

The Chechen-Ingush autonomous republic, whose 1.3 million people are mostly Sunni Muslims, is the most militant new hotspot of ethnic unrest.

Armed opposition groups have surrounded the KGB and other buildings in the region's capital, Grozny, and are locked in a struggle with its Russian-backed government.

Mr. Yeltsin said the separatist leaders must surrender their weapons and evacuate the captured government buildings. He said he would take all legal measures to enforce his order after three days of grace.

But Khusain Akhmadov, deputy president of the Chechen People's Executive committee, called Mr. Yeltsin's threat "the last boltch of the Russian Empire" and an attempt to stamp on the throat of democratic forces in the Chechen Republic.

Mr. Yeltsin was gentler with a congress in Moscow of representatives of two million Germans, mostly descended from artisans brought to Russia in the 18th century by the Empress Catherine the Great.

Soviet Germans lost their Volga autonomous republic under Soviet leader Josef Stalin and were banished to Central Asia.

North is 'convinced' Reagan knew about Iran-contra affair

NEW YORK (R) — Oliver North says in a new book he is convinced Ronald Reagan "knew everything" about the Iran-contra affair when he was president, and that he was pressed by an aide in then-Vice President George Bush, a U.S. senator and a millionaire to say Mr. Reagan knew nothing of the scheme.

Col. North, the former White House aide at the heart of the scandal that shook the Reagan administration, wrote that at the time the scandal broke, in November 1986, he thought Mr. Reagan knew about the illegal arms sales to Iran and the diversion of the proceeds to Nicaraguan contra rebels fighting the leftist Sandinista government.

"And now, five years later, I am even more convinced: President Reagan knew everything," Col. North says in excerpts from the book, *Under Fire*. The excerpts, to be published in next week's Time magazine, were released Saturday.

"Ronald Reagan knew and approved a great deal of what went on with both the Iranian initiative and the private supply efforts on behalf of the contras and he received regular, detailed briefings on both topics," Col.

North wrote. "I have no doubt he was told about the use of residuals for the contras and that he approved it. Enthusiastically," he added.

Col. North, 48, was a Marine lieutenant colonel when he worked in the Reagan White House as a National Security Council aide. In November 1986, Mr. Reagan and his attorney general, Ed Meese, announced the discovery of the diversion, the resignation of Col. North's boss, National Security Adviser John Poindexter. Col. North was fired from his White House job and has since retired from the Marine Corps.

Mr. Reagan has always insisted that he knew nothing of the arms sale diversion to arm the contras.

The book makes no disclosures about President Bush or his nominee to head the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Robert Gates. It is, therefore, unlikely to affect the upcoming Senate vote on Mr. Gates's nomination.

Nor does Col. North provide a smoking gun to prove his allegations against Mr. Reagan, although he offers quotes from a tape that might reveal whether Mr. Reagan knew of the operation if only Col. North and pro-

Indian quake toll may reach 200

NEW DELHI (AP) — A powerful earthquake rocked the Himalayan foothills along the Indian-Tibetan border Sunday, killing at least 100 people, police said. Some officials said they feared the death toll would exceed 200.

Most of the victims died in landslides or in collapsed buildings. At least 1,000 people were injured.

India's Seismology Department said the quake, measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale, shook northern Uttar Pradesh state at 2:53 a.m. (2123 GMT). In Washington, a preliminary reading by the U.S. Geological Survey put the magnitude at 7.1.

Rescue operations were hampered by landslides that blocked roads in the mountains region, where access is arduous in the best of times.

The worst affected area was Uttarkashi, an Indian border district adjoining Chinese-ruled Tibet, a spokesman for the regional police force said.

"The damage is very very se-

vere. Hundreds of people are stranded because of road blocks," said a senior civil official in Dehra Dun, 45 kilometres southwest of Uttarkashi town.

The official, contacted by telephone, spoke on condition of anonymity.

The police spokesman, also contacted in Dehra Dun, said at least 81 people were killed in two towns in the Uttarkashi district. About 1,000 people were injured in the district, said the spokesman, who cannot be identified under police regulations.

Another 20 people died in the Kedarnath district, just east of Uttarkashi, a police official said in Lucknow, the Uttar Pradesh state capital. The victims included 15 pilgrims at a Hindu temple in Kedarnath.

V.P. Sinha, the Lucknow official, said the Chamoli report came by radio from the stricken region's deputy inspector general of police, Sumit Shankar Behera.

Inspector Banerjee said at least

200 people were feared dead in Uttarkashi district, where several Hindu pilgrim towns are located.

The Chamoli and Uttarkashi districts stretch for about 200 kilometres along the Tibetan border.

Communications are tenuous in the rugged, sparsely populated region of valleys and mountains soaring more than 6,000 metres above sea level.

In Uttarkashi, the home of the district police chief collapsed, crushing his 14-year-old son to death, Shaha said.

He also said there were fears of flooding farther south, because landslides had dammed the Bhagirathi River, which flows down from the Himalayas.

The river, which becomes the Ganges at the pilgrim town of Hardwar, traverses the fertile plains of northern India and empties into the Bay of Bengal.

The last major earthquake in the region was on Aug. 21, 1988, along the Indian-Nepalese border.

COLUMN 8

Joan Rivers to have a 'touch up'

NEW YORK (AP) — Talk show host Joan Rivers is going to get her best face forward. Rivers, who has undergone cosmetic surgery in the past, plans to go for a "touch up" Monday, her publicist said. She will unveil the results on her Wednesday show, which also will include footage of the pre-surgery consultation and the post-surgery recovery.

Man wins \$127 m in eye lawsuit

CHICAGO (R) — An Illinois man who blamed the loss of his left eye on the drug Depo-Medrol won a \$127.6 million jury award from manufacturer Upjohn Co. In the decision Friday the jury decided that Meyer Proctor should receive more than \$3.1 million in compensatory damages and \$124.6 million in punitive damages. "Upjohn will appeal," Philip Sheldon, public relations director for the Kalamazoo, Michigan-based company, said in a telephone interview.

"We are totally surprised by the decision and appalled by the verdict." Punitive damages were sought on grounds that Upjohn failed to warn the medical profession about proper use of the drug. The jury acquitted the doctor in proctor's case of liability.

Judge won't release Tampa sex video

TAMPA, Florida (R) — A notorious videotape of a couple having sex in their bathroom won't be on national television, at least not until the couple has their day in court, a judge ruled Monday. The neighbor who shot the video through the window, outraged that the couple was making love in view of children playing nearby, had asked the court to return his tape so he could sell it to one of several interested television chat or gossip shows. Hillsborough Court Judge Cynthia Holloway ruled that Lee Adler's tape will remain in custody of the country sheriff, at least until after the December trial of Alfred Stevens and Janet Paddock. Holloway said she was ordering the tape withheld "in the interest of a fair trial" after a prosecutor said that if the tape was released and broadcast it would be tough to find an impartial jury. The couple, who recently announced their intention to marry during a chat show appearance, faces misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct, less serious than the felony charge they originally faced for lewd and lascivious behaviour in front of children.

Accused bares all for S. African justice

COPE TOWN (R) — A South African judge harshly cleared his court Tuesday when a stark naked man appeared in the dock accused of possessing marijuana. The man, identified as Doctor Steven Alford, stripped off after being led from the police cells at Cape Town magistrates' court, explaining to Judge H.L. Muller that he did not believe in wearing clothes. Muller ordered the court cleared and ordered Mr. September, 38, to be held for psychiatric examination.

Scientists report major prehistoric painting find

MARSEILLE, France (R) — French divers have discovered prehistoric paintings that may be among the best preserved in Europe in a grotto accessible only by an underwater passage, scientists said Friday. The cavern, near the southern port of Marseille, was filled with well-preserved paintings of deer, horses, seals and bison as well as imprints of human hands. The scientists said it was as important a find as the caves of Lascaux in southwestern France, until now considered the best preserved prehistoric frescoes in Europe. "This is an exceptional discovery," said archaeologist Alain Defleur.

"The site is in excellent condition. It is as though Paleolithic man had only just left it." The grotto, thought to date from between 12,000 and 20,000 B.C., was discovered several months ago but scientists kept their find secret while they investigated it fully. Last month three divers died mysteriously while trying to approach the grotto, the entrance to which is hidden underwater at the end of a narrow creek at Sormiou, east of Marseille. An underwater passage leads up to a cavernous air pocket above sea-level. Some 30 paintings and imprints cover a wall 50 metres wide.

He said gaining the support of the General Assembly in the face of tough U.S. opposition would not be easy. But Cuba was ready to keep raising the issue at subsequent assembly sessions and at international forums all over the world.

"We are confident that the vast majority of Latin American and Caribbean nations will support our resolution in the assembly," Mr. Alarcon said.

Cuba has launched a campaign for the lifting of the U.S. embargo at a time when it is facing a deepening economic crisis caused by a sharp and continuing fall-off in its trade with the Soviet Union

Asked how he thought the Soviet Union might vote, now that it had shifted away from communism and loosened its alliance with Cuba, Mr. Alarcon said the Soviets themselves should answer.

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He said that he believed Ollie, his lawyer:

"Why doesn't Ollie just end this thing and explain to the FBI that the President (Reagan) didn't know? If he goes to jail, I'll take care of his family. And I'll be happy to give him a job when he gets out."

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